

*Hazard pay differential* means additional pay for the performance of hazardous duty or duty involving physical hardship.

*Head of an agency* means the head of an agency or an official who has been delegated the authority to act for the head of the agency in the matter concerned.

[56 FR 20344, May 3, 1991, as amended at 59 FR 33416, June 29, 1994; 64 FR 69179, Dec. 10, 1999]

#### **§ 550.903 Establishment of hazard pay differentials.**

(a) A schedule of hazard pay differentials, the hazardous duties or duties involving physical hardship for which they are payable, and the period during which they are payable is set out as appendix A to this subpart and incorporated in and made a part of this section.

(b) Amendments to appendix A of this subpart may be made by OPM on its own motion or at the request of the head of an agency (or authorized designee). The head of an agency (or authorized designee) may recommend the rate of hazard pay differential to be established and must submit, with its request for an amendment, information about the hazardous duty or duty involving physical hardship showing—

- (1) The nature of the duty;
- (2) The degree to which the employee is exposed to hazard or physical hardship;
- (3) The length of time during which the duty will continue to exist;
- (4) The degree to which control may be exercised over the physical hardship or hazard; and
- (5) The estimated annual cost to the agency if the request is approved.

[56 FR 20344, May 3, 1991, as amended at 64 FR 69179, Dec. 10, 1999]

#### **§ 550.904 Authorization of hazard pay differential.**

(a) An agency shall pay the hazard pay differential listed in appendix A of this subpart to an employee who is assigned to and performs any duty specified in appendix A of this subpart. However, hazard pay differential may not be paid to an employee when the hazardous duty or physical hardship has been taken into account in the classi-

fication of his or her position, without regard to whether the hazardous duty or physical hardship is grade controlling, unless payment of a differential has been approved under paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) The head of an agency may approve payment of a hazard pay differential when—

(1) The actual circumstances of the specific hazard or physical hardship have changed from that taken into account and described in the position description; and

(2) Using the knowledge, skills, and abilities that are described in the position description, the employee cannot control the hazard or physical hardship; thus, the risk is not reduced to a less than significant level.

(c) For the purpose of this section, the phrase “has been taken into account in the classification of his or her position” means that the duty constitutes an element considered in establishing the grade of the position—*i.e.*, the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to perform that duty are considered in the classification of the position.

(d) The head of the agency shall maintain records on the use of the authority described in paragraph (b) of this section, including the specific hazardous duty or duty involving physical hardship; the authorized position description(s); the number of employees paid the differential; documentation of the conditions described in paragraph (b) of this section; and the annual cost to the agency.

(e) So that OPM can evaluate agencies’ use of this authority and provide the Congress and others with information regarding its use, each agency shall maintain such other records and submit to OPM such other reports and data as OPM shall require.

[59 FR 33416, June 29, 1994]

#### **§ 550.905 Payment of hazard pay differential.**

(a) When an employee performs duty for which a hazard pay differential is authorized, the agency must pay the hazard pay differential for the hours in a pay status on the day (a calendar day or a 24-hour period, when designated by

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the agency) on which the duty is performed, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section. Hours in a pay status for work performed during a continuous period extending over 2 days must be considered to have been performed on the day on which the work began, and the allowable differential must be charged to that day.

(b) Employees may not be paid a hazardous duty differential for hours for which they receive annual premium pay for regularly scheduled standby duty under § 550.141, annual premium pay for administratively uncontrollable overtime work under § 550.151, or availability pay for criminal investigators under § 550.181.

[64 FR 69180, Dec. 10, 1999]

### § 550.906 Termination of hazard pay differential.

An agency shall discontinue payment of hazard pay differential to an employee when—

(a) One or more of the conditions requisite for such payment ceases to exist;

(b) Safety precautions have reduced the element of hazard to a less than significant level of risk, consistent with generally accepted standards that may be applicable, such as those published by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Department of Labor; or

(c) Protective or mechanical devices have adequately alleviated physical discomfort or distress.

[56 FR 20345, May 3, 1991, as amended at 59 FR 33417, June 29, 1994]

### § 550.907 Relationship to additional pay payable under other statutes.

Hazard pay differential is in addition to any additional pay or allowances payable under other statutes. It shall not be considered part of the employee's rate of basic pay in computing additional pay or allowances payable under other statutes.

[56 FR 20345, May 3, 1991]

## APPENDIX A TO SUBPART I OF PART 550—SCHEDULE OF PAY DIFFERENTIALS AUTHORIZED FOR HAZARDOUS DUTY UNDER SUBPART I

HAZARD PAY DIFFERENTIAL, OF PART 550 PAY ADMINISTRATION (GENERAL)

Duty	Rate of hazard pay differential (percent)	Effective date
Exposure to Hazardous Weather or Terrain:		
(1) <i>Work in rough and remote terrain.</i> When working on cliffs, narrow ledges, or near vertical mountainous slopes where a loss of footing would result in serious injury or death, or when working in areas where there is danger of rock falls or avalanches.	25	First pay period beginning after July 1, 1969.
(2) <i>Traveling under hazardous conditions.</i> (a) When travel over secondary or unimproved roads to isolated mountain top installations is required at night, or under adverse weather conditions (such as snow, rain, or fog) which limits visibility to less than 30 meters (100 feet), when there is danger of rock, mud, or snow slides.	25	Do.
(b) When travel in the wintertime, either on foot or by means of vehicle, over secondary or unimproved roads or snow trails, in sparsely settled or isolated areas to isolated installations is required when there is danger of avalanches, or during "whiteout" phenomenon which limits visibility to less than 3 meters (10 feet).	25	Do.
(c) When work or travel in sparsely settled or isolated areas results in exposure to temperatures and/or wind velocity shown to be of considerable danger, or very great danger, on the windchill chart (appendix A–1), and shelter (other than temporary shelter) or assistance is not readily available.	25	Do.
(3) <i>Snow or ice removal operations.</i> When participating in snowplowing or snow or ice removal operations, regardless of whether on primary, secondary or other class of roads, when (a) there is danger of avalanche, or (b) there is danger of missing the road and falling down steep mountainous slopes because of lack of snow stakes, "white-out" conditions, or sloping ice-pack covering the snow.	25	Do.
(4) <i>Water search and rescue operations.</i> Participating as a member of a water search and rescue team in adverse weather conditions when winds are blowing at 56 km/h (35 m.p.h.) (classified as gale winds) or in water search and rescue operations conducted at night.	25	Do.
(5) <i>Travel on Lake Pontchartrain.</i> (a) When embarking, disembarking or traveling in small craft (boat) on Lake Pontchartrain when wind direction is from north, northeast, or northwest, and wind velocity is over 7.7 meters per second (15 knots); or.	25	Do.